

NO.174

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2019

GRAPEVINE



DUNDEE WEST CHURCH

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GRAPEVINE

Material for the January/February Grapevine should be with the Editorial Team by Sunday 29 December, for publication and uplift from Sunday 5 January.

Have you any articles, or even snippets of news, that you could share with us all? Not so many people are contributing to Grapevine. We know it is nice to sit back and read and enjoy the news and articles in the church magazine, but the Editorial Team could do with some help. We are sure lots of you have stories to tell but might be a little shy about putting them into print. Don't be. Please pass on your news, funny stories, quizzes and puzzles. In fact, as the next magazine comes out in the new year, why not tell us about how you spent Christmas, or any surprising gifts you were given.

PASTORAL LETTER

Sometimes we might wonder what is the point?

What is the point of trying to make a positive difference for fairness when this world is very unfair? Jesus said in a parable that the world gives to those who already have much and takes from those who have nothing.

What is the point in recycling or even campaigning for action on climate change when it all seems too late? The Amazon continues to burn and there is increasing loss of ice in Greenland, the Arctic and the Antarctic!

Just why do we bother?

In the autumn of 1718 Benjamin and Sarah Lay arrived in the Caribbean. They were Quakers and hoped to be among friends in that new country. The Lays were also hunchbacks and barely four feet tall. One day when Sarah was visiting a fellow Quaker she was shocked to find a naked African suspended outside the main house after being savagely whipped for being a runaway. Sarah Lay was horrified, but her fellow Quaker felt no need to apologise. Industry needed workers to work in the heat who would not die from tropical diseases. Moreover, if Industry was to be competitive then it needed slave labour to maintain very, very low costs and maximise profits. No Christian should feel guilty about this - it was even justified by the Bible, but the Lays did feel guilty AND they wanted to do something about it!

For the rest of their lives the Lays campaigned to end Slavery and took their campaign to Philadelphia to where they had moved. After his wife died in 1735 Benjamin Lay increased his provocation of the establishment in never stinting to call his fellow Christians the biggest hypocrites. It took to 1759, when Benjamin himself was on his deathbed, for the Quaker community of Philadelphia to discipline any Quaker who traded in slaves. It took a further 60 years before swathes of British citizens regarded slavery as a monstrous sin and both Britain and France joined in campaigning for its end.

If we limit ourselves to our limitations we will do nothing, but the Spirit has no limitations.

"What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is Spirit." - St. John 3:6

GORDON

Dundee West Church

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE



Sunday 10 November ~ 10.50

A service of reflection, prayer, praise and music



*What shall we pray for those who died,
those on whose death our lives relied?*

*Silenced by war but not denied,
God give them peace*

Dundee West Guild
COFFEE MORNING
Saturday 9 November
10am-12noon



Home baking Arts/Crafts Gifts Books Raffle/Tombola
Tickets Adults - £3 : Children £1

MODERN CHURCH MINISTRY

The July issue of the Grapevine included a brief note indicating the thanks to those who do so much for our congregation as stated at our Annual Meeting. It also indicated the extensive use of our premises throughout the week by our own organisations and many others, but regrettably the words which loosely follow the format of a well known song by Gilbert and Sullivan were not there. Enjoy these words as you hum your way through 'Modern Church Ministry' from 'The Pirates of Dundee West'.

MODERN CHURCH MINISTRY

I am the very model of a 'past sell by date' maths teacher
I've shown the 'nearly Magic Square' at Sagrida Familia.
But what about the many things that fill our rooms and halls each night?
We are the very model of a moder'n church ministry.

There's **Girls' Brigade** and **Brownies** too and don't forget the **Rainbows** group
There's **Trefoil Guild** and **Country Dance** and even **Tayside Opera**
So for matters physical and very nearly spiritual
We are the very model of an up to date church ministry.

There's **MDH** for Friday lunch with 50 plus still being fed
With arts and other things to do to keep the minds oh so alert
So for matters physical and very nearly spiritual
We are the very model for progressive congregations.

There's **Thomson Leng**, young energetic Musical Society
Oh, how I wish their scores matched up to all those on the whole hall floor
And **Yoga**, **Dance 4 Parkinson** and even **Finding Faith**
We are the very model of a moder'n church ministry.

There's **Ju Jitsu** and **Worship Group** and even some more **Yoga**
And **Making Dundee Home** on Wednesday is much as on Friday
5000 must be close to match the biblical experience
We are the very model of an up to date church ministry.
Tai Chi's still there along with energetic **Badminton**

Whose team was third in DABA League and second in the KO Cup
So for matters physical and not especially religious
We are the very model for progressive congregations.

A **Choir** meet every Wednesday and **Soul Space** finds a decent home
Progressive Christianity and **Yoga** for a third time too
And **Magdalen Green** and others find our premises so useful
We are the very model for progressive congregations.

Coffee Mornings by the **Guild** are well attended and delightful
And we would really miss the **Soup and Pudding** on some Sundays
So for matters edible and not exactly spiritual
We are the very model of an up to date church ministry.

To Jack and Gordon, sorry, but we really seek a minister
The Committee meets and prays and hopes and prays and hopes again
The church is such a busy place with every nook and cranny used
That looking for a minister is banished to the **Café**
It's just as well the GF cakes are sealed away though in plain sight
How we manage to focus on the job in hand is masterful
So for matters edible and sometimes even quite religious
We are the very model for progressive congregations.

We welcome all who use the place, even for a very small fee
To heat the place and shed some light is not exactly free
So all we ask is that you leave the place just as you should find it
And leave the things **we** really need just where they were before you came

And if there is some damage or some things do go ‘amiss’?!?!

Just let us know, we won’t be harsh, it is the honest thing to do
So for matters physical and very often quite religious
We are the very model for progressive congregations.

THE GUILD

The new session of the Guild started off literally with all bells ringing! We were entertained by a group of handbell ringers from the Blairgowrie area and what a happy evening it was. Two of the group had taken ill just days before and could not attend, but their friends carried on brilliantly, some even coping with two sets of bells at once. They had a very varied programme and we enjoyed it very much indeed.

On 8 October Ron Srimgeour returned to the Guild, this time telling us about the history of the tomb in Westminster Abbey dedicated to the Unknown Warrior. Ron is a retired history teacher and knows his subjects so well that he speaks without a note! The subject was quite moving but at the same time quite fascinating. From the idea of David Railston, a forces chaplain, who understood the anguish of families who had lost loved ones but were forced to accept that they had been buried where they fell and there could be no funeral at which the family members could express their grief and remember their lives; through all the red tape, to the final burial of an unknown warrior (no one knew the name, regiment, rank) in a grave in the Abbey which had been filled with French soil taken from the battlefield.

Marjorie Clark from the World Mission came along on 22 October and told us of the work being done through one of the Guild National Projects to help young mothers in Zambia. It is absolutely crucial and, although still at an early stage, is already giving groups of young girls advice on a range of topics such as health, sex education, nutrition, child care, education and training for work skills.

If you have ever been the victim of a scam, our next talk is the one to help you - How to Avoid Scams. It should be very enlightening and informative. This is on 5 November at 7.30 p.m. Remember our meetings are open to everyone, so do come along.

The Guild Quiz held on 10 September (it seems so far away now) was a fun night and one we might repeat at some time in the future. £230 was raised which will go towards supporting the Guild Projects.

Our next fund-raiser and social event is the Autumn Coffee Morning which will be held on Saturday, 9 November. We will have all the usual stalls for gifts, books, cake and candy, raffle and tombola - and, of course, lots of hot tea or coffee and some edible treats. Do come along and support this event. Oh, and why not bring your friends with you!

DATES: -

9th November	Guild Coffee morning and stalls: 10am-12noon -
10th November	<i>Remembrance Sunday</i>
15 th November	“Eat, Share and Love! – open event by Dundee Interfaith Lower hall from 6.00 – 8.00pm – <i>All Welcome</i>
17th November	<i>Crossreach Sunday</i>
23rd November	Making Dundee Home soup & pudding lunch: 11.00-1.00pm -£5.00
24th November	<i>Girl's Brigade Enrolment Service</i>
25th November	Progressive Christianity Network: 7.30pm
27th November	Christmas Lights Concert: 6:15pm
1st December	<i>1st Sunday of Advent</i>
7th December	Roseangle Kitchen Cafe Craft Fair - lower hall – <i>All Welcome</i>
8th December	<i>Voice from the shore: Baillie Fraser Macpherson</i>
15th December	<i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i>
18th December	Cherry Blossom Nursery - Nativity Play: 2.00pm
22nd December	<i>Carol Service</i>
24th December	<i>Christmas Eve Service: 6.30pm</i>
25th December	Making Dundee Home Christmas Lunch
29th December	<i>Praise, readings and reflections</i>
5th January	<i>NEW YEAR Sunday</i>
12th January	<i>Baptism with Rev. Andrew Greaves</i>

OFFICE BEARERS ON DUTY

Sunday 10 Nov

J Wilson

Mrs J Goodall

Mrs C Beattie

Sunday 1 Dec

Mrs S MacLachlan

Mrs P Black

Mrs C Lakie

Sunday 22 Dec

N McGill

Mrs D McGill

Miss W Patterson

Sunday 17 Nov

Miss C MacLachlan

Mrs L Sharp

Mrs M Milne

Sunday 8 Dec

Mrs L Ross

J Tough

Mrs C Sim

Sunday 29 Dec

D Orrock

W Lakie

Mrs C Cross

Sunday 24 Nov

Mrs E Blair

Mrs A Almond

Mrs P Turner

Sunday 15 Dec

Miss F MacLachlan

Miss E Will

R Robertson

Sunday 5 Jan

J Wilson

Mrs J Goodall

Mrs C Beattie

CHURCH FLOWERS

Sunday 10 Nov

Sunday 17 Nov

Sunday 24 Nov

Sunday 1 Dec

Sunday 8 Dec

Sunday 15 Dec

Sunday 22 Dec

Sunday 29 Dec

Sunday 5 Jan

Mrs A Almond

Mrs J Hutton

Mrs M Frew

Mrs S Cant

Mrs C Cross

Misses E & F Will

Mrs E Blair & Miss J Dorward

Church Flowers

Miss F Sturrock & Mrs I Anderson

FLOWER DELIVERY

Sunday 10 Nov

Sunday 17 Nov

Sunday 24 Nov

Sunday 1 Dec

Sunday 8 Dec

Sunday 15 Dec

Sunday 22 Dec

Sunday 29 Dec

Sunday 5 Jan

Mrs E Blair

Mr M Revey

Mrs C Beattie

Mrs A Almond

Mrs J Hutton

Mrs J Goodall

Miss W Patterson

Mrs D Taylor

Mrs E Blair

FOR ALL THE SAINTS

All the answers to this quiz are saints' names. A good one for Boxing Day - if your curiosity will let you keep it that long!

1. Which town is the home of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club?
2. The name of a Scottish town on the River Tweed.
3. Which Christian martyr is the patron saint of travellers?
4. Which saint's day is associated with a massacre involving members of a prominent gang in Chicago?
5. What is the name of the Cathedral Church on Edinburgh's Royal Mile?
6. Name the island where Napoleon Bonaparte was exiled after Waterloo in 1815.
7. Name the capital of the Channel Island of Jersey.
8. As I was going to ----- I met a man with seven wives. Where was I going?
9. Name the French fashion designer who lived from 1936 to 2008 and studied under Christian Dior.
10. Which breed of dog is associated with the mountainous regions of Switzerland?

11. Which city in the state of Missouri hosted the 1904 Olympics?
12. Name the horse race run at Doncaster every year in September.
13. Name the Cathedral Basilica in Venice.
14. Name the Cathedral in London designed by Sir Christopher Wren after the Great Fire.
15. Name the Russian city formerly called Petrograd and Leningrad.
16. Who is the patron saint of Wales?
17. Whose feast day is celebrated on 26 December?
18. Can you name the village that is situated at the eastern end of Loch Earn?
19. If it rains on 15 July, legend says it will rain for 40 days - according to which saint?
20. Complete the name of this Caribbean nation St ----- and The Grenadines.

DOES IT MATTER?

Siegfried Sassoon

Does it matter? – losing your legs?
For people will always be kind,
And you need not show that you mind
When the others come home after hunting
To gobble their muffins and eggs.

Does it matter? – losing your sight?
There's much splendid work for the blind;
And people will always be kind,
As you sit on the terrace remembering
And turning your face to the light.

Do they matter? – those dreams from the pit?
You can drink and forget and be glad,
And people won't say that you're mad;
For they'll know you've fought for your country
And no one will worry a bit.

SITUATION ETHICS

DR. WILLIAM BARCLAY

When we talk about ethics, we mean a series of rules, laws and principles by which we act, telling us as Christians, how we should act in certain situations. Normally we classify such situations as either good or bad.

However, in the 1960's an American professor, Joseph Fletcher, introduced a new concept which he called, "Situation Ethics", in which he stated that in a study of ethics there is nothing which is intrinsically good or intrinsically bad.

Barclay suggests that for the Christian in dealing with such a situation the word "love," must be the key consideration. He uses the Greek word, "agape" the highest form of love which omits the physical and passionate aspects and which recognises the good in another regardless of the hurt that may result.

Here are a couple of examples: Suppose for instance a house catches fire. Within there is a young child and an original painting worth a king's ransom. Which do you save? The answer is obvious. A life is of greater value than a painting.

But consider the situation of the burning house in which live an aged father, whose days are numbered and a brilliant young doctor who has discovered a cure, the formula for which is still to be penned and which will save many thousands still to be born.

Which should be saved?

IN THE NEWS

Did anyone notice a few weeks ago in the Craigie Column on the same day two articles in *The Courier and Advertiser* that had connections with Dundee West Church?

The first related to this year's Act of Remembrance Service which will be led by Rev. Gordon Campbell. Many in the church will remember Gordon who came through Sunday School to becoming a member of the then Roseangle Ryehill Church, and then going on in time to train as an auxiliary minister of the Church of Scotland.

Gordon is a very active person with many strings to his bow. He was very involved in the Scout movement becoming an Area Commissioner. He is an excellent speaker and is often called upon to talk to groups about a wide range of topics, and in addition he is Secretary of Tayforth Universities Military Education Committee, as well as Honorary University Chaplain. His day time job is Financial Manager at Dundee University and outwith that he is part-time minister at Perth Congregational Church.

This is a very well deserved honour for Gordon to be invited to lead the Remembrance Service.

The second article was about William Lyon Mackenzie, well known in Dundee West through the stain glass window in the Friendship Hall and through an article in a *Grapevine* some time ago.

Donald Abbott of Invergowrie is a regular contributor to *The Courier* on topics of local history and has mentioned in the past other points of interest from Dundee West history (and the original five churches which now make up our one joint congregation). In this article Donald Abbott brings to the attention a plaque which shoppers can see at the Overgate Centre which commemorates Mackenzie. He goes on to say that Mackenzie was thought to have been involved in his formative years with the radicals of his native town and was a friend of Robert Rintoul, the editor of *The Dundee Advertiser*. He went on to emigrate to Canada and set sail from Dundee in April 1820 on a journey of 28 days to reach Quebec.

As we know from the plaque in our own church he later became the first mayor of Toronto. This was when Canada was just a relatively small area of North America and not the country we know now.

UPDATE

Progressive Christianity Network meetings began again on the 28th October at 7.30pm for 2019/2020. There were three new participants for a discussion among the eight of us on our personal understandings and experience of faith. It was a deep conversation that expanded our understanding of each other and not just faith, which is helpful in building bonds.

Future meetings for 2019/2020 will be the last Monday of each month at 7.30pm up to the end of May, but no meeting in December. Planned subjects to date are as follows: -

25th November - Quantum Physics & God (DVD with Rev. Dr. Robin Meyers.)

27th January - The practice of spirituality (discussion)

24th February - Prayer and well-being (discussion)

30th March - Peace through Justice, not Peace through Victory (discussion)

Making Dundee Home continues every Wednesday and Friday with *drop ins* providing lunch, food collections, clothes and household items as they are available. Wednesdays are only promoted through word of mouth and comprise food from Greggs for lunch along with creative activity. In particular, Claire of Just Bee Productions is leading a group in the preparation of a drama production on recovering from mental ill health. This will be performed in Dundee West later in 2020. We usually have around 30 visitors with an increasing number of women.

Fridays continue to provide a three course lunch usually led by Alison Cruickshank in the kitchen. Numbers are between 45 - 55 for lunch and again there is other food, clothes and household items. There is also the opportunity to be creative and some visitors spend time creating art of various kinds. We will be open on Christmas Day again this year as it was very obvious that for some folks Christmas was a lonely time and could be depressing.

We have nursing staff from the NHS Keep Well team attend on both Wednesdays and Fridays. They can be a godsend when listening to people and provide guidance on both physical and mental health issues.

We often have staff from the housing charity Shelter and are encouraging interest from the local authority team working on substance misuse.

People who attend are most often on benefits over the long term and may have other issues related to ill health or addictions. As mentioned there are more women, with a couple of older men who are isolated after losing their wives. There are increasing demands on supporting individuals to engage with other agencies and attend benefit assessments. We will be assisting a few folks to update their CVs to move towards employment as employment agencies provide less support due to local changes.

This sort of activity is replicated across the city by many churches in response to increasing poverty, substance misuse and poor mental health.

Our Dance for Parkinson's class continues with two new dancers having been expertly training in both Leeds and London through our Go for It funding.

Sadly, we have just lost one of our number who died suddenly towards the end of October. Community Dance remains a priority and I'm open to anyone who might want to assist in this initiative to improve exercise and help address isolation and loneliness, especially among those who are older.

Soul-Space+

I will be re-starting Soul Space as there is interest from some of the participants and volunteers in Making Dundee Home and others. It will comprise meditation and conversation as a way of enabling personal development, resilience and commitment to positive action. I'm just not sure what the best time for this is, but it will be open to everyone.

2020: -

As at the time of providing this update we remain in vacancy but cannot remain static. The Church of Scotland has a programme of radical change that aims for growth. Having a strategy for growth is crucial, irrespective of us being in vacancy. The Mission and Worship group is meeting on the evening of the 12th November when the development of such a strategy must be initiated for the Kirk Session and Church. It's soon to be a NEW YEAR and a new decade that will definitely bring challenges as well as opportunities.

READERS' LETTERS FROM A DAILY NEWSPAPER

SIR --- Listening to Radio 4, I was pleased to hear a School Mistress defending a pupil's right to throw snowballs against a school master who had banned the annual fun. Then she spoiled it all by saying she preferred to build a snow person!

SIR.... Having donned my arctic gear in order to go to the Supermarket,I called at my elderly neighbour's house to ask if anything was required "two hundred cigarettes, a bag of toffees and next week's TV guide," was the reply!

SIR--- My husband's only concession to the present cold temperatures, was to dig a path from the backdoor to the various dustbins, in order I could get there more easily. I very much appreciated his kindness?

SIR---After the last few summers we have endured, isn't a refreshing change to grumble about the heat?

SIR---- In the summer of 1976 we recycled every drop of water we could use, including bath water to irrigate the vegetables. We had a crop of healthy succulent cucumbers, of which we were unable to eat. They all tasted of Lifebuoy soap.

SIR--- How many times must I refrain from running the tap while cleaning my teeth in order to save enough water to fill my neighbour's swimming pool?

BADMINTON CLUB

The club continues to meet on Thursday evenings from 7.30pm with about a dozen members attending regularly. The club has a team in each of the local competitions, the Main DABA League, the Handicap Cup, the Gents Doubles League and the Ladies Doubles League.

There is also a group of 6 to 8 which meets on Tuesday afternoons from 2 to 4 pm. The 6 to 8 refers to the number attending, not their ages! The participants are mainly, but not exclusively, ladies. The more gentle exercise is, of course, accompanied by 'tea and cake'. Please feel free to come along and see if you enjoy the exercise and the friendly company.



GIRLS' BRIGADE

The Girls' Brigade Enrolment service will take place on Sunday 24 November at 11am. All are welcome.

Answers to Fall Words

- | | | | | | |
|-----|----------------|-----|------------------|-----|------------------|
| 1. | Hayride | 2. | Sunflower | 3. | Squirrel |
| 4. | Leaves | 5. | Rake | 6. | Cider |
| 7. | Autumn | 8. | Apple | 9. | September |
| 10. | Pumpkin | 11. | Acorn | 12. | Chilly |

Find the word for these phrases

W	E	D	R	Y	T	V
E	A	E	H	N	R	D
B	L	R	O	G	E	T
C	E	O	R	O	T	I
F	M	C	J	O	B	F
S	I	I	A	D	W	C
A	T	O	P	L	R	G
E	L	D	D	I	M	W

? ? ? as a bone

In the ? ? ? ? ? of nowhere

The ? ? ? before a storm

Straight as an ? ? ? ? ?

A meal ? ? ? for a King

Get off to a ? ? ? ? start

Over the ? ? ? ?

Willing to give it a ? ? ?

Rotten to the ? ? ? ?

? ? ? get what you deserve

Make it in ? ? ? ?

Good news or the ? ? ? news

CALENDAR

WORSHIP

Sunday 10 November	: 11.00 am :	Gordon Sharp Coffee after service
Sunday 17 November	: 11.00 am :	Gordon Sharp Coffee after service
Sunday 24 November	: 11.00 am :	Gordon Sharp Coffee after service Girls' Brigade Enrolment service
Sunday 1 December	: 11.00 am :	Gordon Sharp Coffee after service
Sunday 8 December	: 11.00 am :	Gordon Sharp Coffee after service
Sunday 15 December	: 11.00 am :	Gordon Sharp Coffee after service
Sunday 22 December	: 11.00 am :	Gordon Sharp Coffee after service
Tuesday 24 December	: 6.30 pm :	Christmas Eve Service
Sunday 29 December	: 11.00 am :	Gordon Sharp Coffee after service
Sunday 5 January	: 11.00 am :	Gordon Sharp Coffee after service

WEEKDAYS

Tuesday	5 November	: 7.30pm :	The Guild
Saturday	9 November	: 10-12pm :	The Guild Coffee Morning
Tuesday	19 November	: 7.30pm :	The Guild
Monday	25 November	: 7.30pm :	P.C.N.
Tuesday	26 November	: 7.30pm :	Kirk Session
Wednesday	27 November	: 6.30pm :	West End Lights Switch On
Saturday	7 December	: 10am-4pm:	Craft Fair in the Café
Wednesday	11 December	: 7.30pm :	Lydian Singers Concert